

Hayes Hospital has never wavered in its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every member of their team, past and present, for the life-changing work they have done for our community for the last 125 years.

#### IMPRESSION OF A CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER OWL

(Ms. BYNUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I will offer my impression of a congressional Member owl who will not stand up to the unconstitutional acts of this administration.

Who? Who me? Everything is okay. I see the beatings on TV. I see ICE showing up at people's doors. I see what is happening, but I am not getting in the way. I am going to keep my head down.

#### INDIANA—COLLEGE NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

(Mr. SHREVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, last night the country watched something nobody predicted: Indiana, national football champions. Our Hoosiers beat Miami 27-21, and finished a perfect season and brought the title home to Indiana.

I say that as a proud IU alum, former chairman of our IU Alumni Association, over 800,000 living alumni strong. My wife, Mary, and I have been cheering on our Hoosiers since our college days.

We will be talking about this play for a long time: Fourth and five, Fernando Mendoza puts his head down, bounces off defenders, spins, stretches, and powers in for the touchdown.

Coach Curt Cignetti took over just two seasons ago. There were no short-cuts and no gimmicks. It was just work and belief.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate IU's president Pam Whitten, our AD Scott Dolson, every player and coach, and our Hoosier fans who never gave up.

Coach Cignetti said of the season: "It would be a helluva movie," and he is right.

#### DEFUND ICE

(Ms. STANSBURY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, it is beyond time to defund ICE. It is beyond time to stop the violence. It is beyond time to stop the unfettered use of force against our communities and to stop the lawless violation of human and civil rights. It is beyond time, Mr. Speaker, to stop the rot from the top, which has turned this agency into a rogue and lawless force that is terrorizing our communities.

This week, the House will consider funding for DHS and give even more funding to ICE.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker: I am not only a no, I am a hell no.

From unleashing violence in Minneapolis to dog whistles from the White House, I have received countless calls from New Mexicans calling for an end to this violence because we cannot and we will not allow ICE to tear our country apart. We refuse to allow this administration to terrorize this country, and that is why I will be damned if we give one more dollar to that rogue organization, Mr. Speaker. That is why I will vote "no," and that is why we must defund ICE.

□ 1920

#### CELEBRATING WINNERS OF 2025 NEW JERSEY 10TH BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST

(Mrs. McIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2025 New Jersey 10th Black History Month Essay Contest winners.

I love this contest because it showcases the amazing talent found in the halls of our New Jersey-10 schools. Uplifting our prolific young writers is vital to empowering the next generation of New Jersey leaders.

Last year, Emma Andre from Cranford High School, Mia Jones from University High School, Bruno Mendes from Science Park High School, Chris Tacuri from Science Park High School, and Demetrius Williams from East Orange STEM Academy High School were each recognized for their tributes to Black history trailblazers. This year, the contest continues in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Black History Month.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years later, where do we go from here? I am challenging New Jersey-10 students to ponder this question and examine the current state of Black history, envisioning its future for generations to come. Submissions are due by February 23.

#### CELEBRATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, alongside hundreds of Ohioans, our community of Toledo celebrated the sacrificial life and works of Reverend Martin Luther King.

Macedonia Baptist Church in Toledo, and its rousing choir, welcomed guest speaker and NAACP's national executive board member, Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony, who spoke eloquently of the living legacy of Reverend Dr. King.

One quote of Dr. King remains alive—and there are so many that do—but is

particularly poignant and courageous. He said:

"I'm not one to lose hope. I keep on hoping. I still have faith in the future. But I have had to analyze many things over the last few years. And I would say over the last few months, I've gone through a lot of soul-searching and agonizing moments. And I have come to see that we have many more difficulties ahead. Some of the old optimism was a little superficial, and now it must be tempered with solid realism. And I think the realistic fact is that we still have a long, long way to go."

Mr. Speaker, until his life was taken from him, he worked for hope, optimism, and to build a better world every day. I share that with every citizen of our country.

#### CONGRATULATING ABIGAIL ROSS HOPPER

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Abigail Ross Hopper, who is retiring from her role as president and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association.

For nearly a decade, Abby has led efforts to develop, to enact, and defend policies to support solar energy and energy storage.

During this time, the solar industry has been massively successful. Costs have come down dramatically. Some 250 gigawatts of installed solar capacity nationwide now exist. That is enough to power 45 million homes, making solar an important and rapidly growing part of our electricity mix.

As of 2024, the industry employed 280,000 Americans across thousands of companies including a recent boom in domestic manufacturing jobs. One of the greatest developments over the past few years has been the huge growth in American-made solar panels and components.

Thanks to policies championed by Abby and SEIA, the United States has become the third largest solar module manufacturer in the world. While I am saddened by Abby's departure, I am confident that because of her leadership, the solar industry is well-positioned to continue playing a leading role in delivering the affordable, reliable, and pollution-free electricity that Americans are indeed counting on.

#### BUILDING A BELOVED COMMUNITY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. McCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include

extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose national holiday was yesterday and who would have been 97 years old on January 15.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today was Martin Luther King Day. It was also Inauguration Day. As I sat in the rotunda watching the President take the oath of office, I couldn't help but ponder the final question that Dr. King pondered in the last year of his life: Where do we go from here? Chaos or community.

Dr. King asked this question after the victory of the Civil Rights Act and after the victory of the Voting Rights Act. He pondered what the Black community should do with this extraordinary power, the power of the vote, when for the first time in American history, a government by, of, and for the people finally included Black Americans.

He focused on addressing poverty. He focused on addressing discrimination. He focused on addressing war. I thought about another speech that he gave shortly before he died called: "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution."

Before Inauguration Day, one of the architects of Project 2025, which has been the blueprint for the second Trump administration, said this is the second American Revolution, which will be peaceful if the left allows it. I thought about what Dr. King would say today. His words remain relevant.

Within hours of the President taking his oath of office, chaos was unleashed. Through an attack on diversity, equity, and inclusion, we saw over the past year efforts to roll back the hard-won victories of the civil rights movement.

We see at the Supreme Court right now a case that could gut what remains of the Voting Rights Act after the court gutted section 5 and section 4 effectively in the Shelby County v. Holder case.

We have seen Black and Brown communities, including American citizens, living in terror as ICE agents show up on streets, door to door, in our courthouses, and on the way to school, grabbing people and violating their due process rights.

We have seen trade wars that make the cost of everything go up. We have seen a Federal workforce—which was the doorway to the middle class for many Black Americans—we have seen a Federal workforce, in the words of Russell Vought, "traumatized." We have seen the largest cuts to food assistance and healthcare coverage in American history. That is just the tip

of the iceberg. Chaos has been unleashed.

Dr. King in his time, while he fought chaos, he stayed focused on community. He stayed focused on building what he called the beloved community. I think the beloved community is best described as a community in which we care for one another. It is where we feed the hungry, where we care for the sick, and where we house the homeless.

He focused on making sure that the promises upon which this country was founded ring true for every American.

□ 1930

Before he died, he wondered if the dream that he talked about on the March on Washington had become a nightmare and was too far out of reach. Yet, on the night before he died, he told us that he had seen the Promised Land, that he wouldn't get there with us, but he still believed in the power of community and the power of the beloved community.

Today, the Congressional Black Caucus is carrying forward his work. We are his legacy. We ensure that what he fought for—what John Lewis fought for, and what millions of Americans have fought for—since the first day in 1619, when Africans were brought to these shores involuntarily—endures. From day one, through acts of rebellion, resistance, and self-liberation, fought for an America that included them, and we the people.

We carry out that legacy, and we will fight the chaos every single day to ensure that his work continues. Whether it is expanding the right to vote, whether it is fighting unjust wars, whether it is working to eradicate poverty, whether it is standing up for the constitutional rights of every American, as the conscience of the Congress, we will continue that legacy.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield to our chairwoman, the Congresswoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am Representative YVETTE D. CLARKE, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, proudly representing New York's Ninth Congressional District in central and south Brooklyn.

I thank Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN for anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to commemorate the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King held an unyielding belief that women and men everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal. He used the power of words and the example of nonviolent resistance to bring us closer to racial and economic justice.

Dr. King was a man of courage, principles, and faith. We are forever in his debt. Today, his example inspires us all toward our highest ideals as Americans. As we gather to honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an

American hero and patriot, we are keenly aware of the pivotal moment in history in which we stand and of the forces actively working to undermine his life's work.

At a time when the most vulnerable communities in our Nation are under relentless attack, the Congressional Black Caucus continues to uphold Dr. King's legacy, rooted in justice, fairness, and equity for all.

Today, ironically, also marks the 1-year anniversary of the Trump administration. As we reflect on the damage that this administration has inflicted on communities across this Nation, we call on our colleagues across the aisle to honor the teachings and philosophy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to work with us to reject the hateful agenda that has taken hold.

Dr. King devoted his life to reminding us that silence in the face of injustice is not an option. As he so powerfully said: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."

The Congressional Black Caucus refuses to remain silent in the face of the pain this administration inflicts on the American people, from the assaults on voting rights with the looming Louisiana v. Callais decision before the Supreme Court, to deepening economic inequality, to the threats against our Nation's healthcare.

Today, we are recommitting ourselves to the fight of keeping Dr. King's dream and his mission alive.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to our immediate past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressman from Nevada's Fourth, STEVEN HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Commonwealth of Virginia for yielding and to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CLARKE, and all of our colleagues for the work that we do every single day to live out the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of my dear fraternity brother and trailblazing leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today, I speak with urgency about the American Dream; specifically, that dream being under attack.

More than 60 years ago, Dr. King warned this Nation that America had given Black Americans "a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds,'" a promise made but not kept, opportunity delayed and justice deferred.

Mr. Speaker, that warning still rings true today. Dr. King reminded us that public policy is a moral act. What we choose to fund and what we choose to cut reveals who we value and who we leave behind. Right now, working families in my home State of Nevada and all across this country are feeling the consequences of those choices: Prices are rising. Wages are stretched thin. Too many people are working full-time but still falling behind.

While families are struggling to make ends meet, this administration is attempting to rewrite history. Just recently, the current occupant of the White House claimed that civil rights-era protections left White Americans "very badly treated."

These false and dangerous claims tarnish Dr. King's legacy and the history in which he lived, which is at risk of repeating itself today.

Dr. King called for a revolution of values, and I rise today with my colleagues to reinforce that cause. Today, that revolution means choosing people over profits, workers over Wall Street, and families over special interests.

The American Dream is not dead, but it is under attack. If we lead with courage, invest with purpose, and govern with our values, we can revive it for Nevada and for our entire Nation. That is how we honor Dr. King's legacy: by building an America of equal opportunity, shared prosperity, and dignity for all.

I encourage all of my colleagues, regardless of party lines, to do their part in honoring Dr. King through their actions. That is how we carry on his legacy, and that is how we revive the dream.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the Congresswoman from North Carolina's Fourth District, Congresswoman VALERIE FOUSHEE.

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for organizing this Special Order hour and for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in reflecting on the life, legacy, and enduring moral leadership of the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose vision of justice and equality continues to shape our Nation's conscience.

Dr. King's work reminds us that progress in this country has never been inevitable and that the rights and freedoms that we cherish have always required vigilance, courage, and sustained commitment. Today, that lesson is as urgent as ever. Across our country, communities are feeling the weight of an administration that governs through extremism, division, punishment, and exclusion.

□ 1940

We see it in attacks on our voting rights, in efforts to criminalize protests, in targeting immigrants and asylum seekers, in the rollback of civil rights protections, and in policies that deepen economic inequality while shielding the powerful from accountability.

Dr. King did not believe justice was self-executed. He understood that progress is never handed down. It is demanded. He warned us, as you heard from our chairwoman, that our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Silence, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what this moment does not allow.

Progress is never achieved without persistence, and justice is never advanced without those willing to confront complacency and demand accountability.

The Congressional Black Caucus will not be silent while families are pushed deeper into poverty, while communities of color are targeted by discriminatory policies, and while the promise of our democracy is narrowed to serve the few instead of the many.

We refuse to accept the vision of America where cruelty is policy and inequality is the goal. Instead, we stand in the tradition of Dr. King, committed to dignity, equity, and justice for all. We will continue to speak out, to act, and to fight until the promise of this Nation is fully realized.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman FOUSHEE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia for hosting this event, and I also thank the Congressional Black Caucus for the focus on this issue tonight.

I was a child in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, in the late 1960s. I lived across the street from the Booker T. Washington High School, so you know what side of town I lived on.

Rocky Mount was a city that was still segregated. In fact, it was literally divided by the railroad tracks that ran through the middle of the town. The Whites lived on one side; the Blacks lived on the other.

My parents were both graduates of that high school, and I had gone to work at that point. My mother worked in the school system. In the late 1960s, the schools were still segregated. I was able to see how that changed as my mother was working and then had the chance to work at other schools as the schools integrated.

I knew that the connection was the civil rights movement that was led by Dr. Martin Luther King, and Dr. Martin Luther King had preached at that gymnasium at the Booker T. Washington High School a few years earlier. I was probably too young to remember him even showing up, but we recognized the power of that movement and his leadership.

His leadership was a courage rooted in faith and total commitment to public service. He knew he was going to be killed, as you know from the "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech he delivered the night before he was assassinated, but he still went on.

In 1956, after he had just graduated—or he was still working on his dissertation, actually working on graduating with his Ph.D.—he was called to Montgomery to preach at a church there and lead the church. When he got there, he was drafted to become the leader of the SCLC, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was put in that position because they had conflicting groups. They couldn't decide who the leader should be, but they knew it was

a critical time, and they knew that this young man, whose father had been a preacher, had talent. They put him in the middle of that position.

This is a young man—I think he was around 26—who moves to a new town, doesn't know anybody there, with his wife and child. He becomes the pastor of a church. He is still writing his dissertation at night, and then he becomes the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott. Talk about gifted leadership.

Not too far into that—they were a few days in, actually—the White segregationists realized that this bus boycott was serious. They knew that it was real. They started with the threats. They tried to threaten people and threaten to take their jobs away, but they weren't able to get away with that. They weren't able to undermine the bus boycott with threats, so they actually started calling Dr. King's house. They threatened his wife, and they threatened him.

Eventually, the threats became real. In 1956, somebody put a bomb at his house and blew up the front part of it. His wife was there. His young baby was there. Thank God, neither of them was hurt. When Dr. King heard about it, he prayed and then ran to his house as quickly as he could.

When he got there, a crowd had gathered, hundreds of people, African Americans who lived in that community and knew about Dr. King and attended his church. They were angry. If they had guns, they brought those. If they had weapons, they brought those. If they didn't have that, they grabbed a shovel or whatever they could get their hands on and went to the house because they were ready to seek revenge, but Dr. King said: That is not our way.

The Christian leadership that he provided was deeply rooted in faith, deeply rooted in nonviolence, and was ultimately tested that night. He met the test that night and continued forward.

Part of that movement ended up resulting in the civil rights legislation that became the crown jewel of the American democracy, because America wasn't really a democracy in 1776 or when the Constitution was written in the 1787–1789 era. It certainly wasn't a democracy after the Civil War because right after that, when Reconstruction ended, the Ku Klux Klan rose up. They reasserted their right to white supremacy.

African Americans who had been freed from slavery were pushed back into an ugly version, an ugly, violent version that we called segregation. The Jim Crow laws were put in place. Many of them had achieved positions, including being elected to this body, and all of that was stripped away.

For the next 100 years or so, African Americans lived under the threat of violence. If you looked at a White woman the wrong way, you could end up dead. If she just thought you looked at her the wrong way, you could end up dead. That is what happened to Emmett Till.

Not only that, you had African Americans who came back from service after World War II, including my father-in-law, and what they found was an America that was still deeply violent, deeply racial.

In fact, one of the veterans who came back who had served in the military and fought in World War II had his eyes gouged out when he came back, an act of violence that shocked the country, but didn't shock it enough. We had other lynchings, and the like, that went through that era and continued until the 1960s. That is when Dr. King and the civil rights movement had their rendezvous with destiny.

I am here tonight to thank him for the work that he did. The Voting Rights Act, which is one of the key pieces of legislation that came out of that era, is now under attack. It is under threat. It is pending in front of the Supreme Court across the street. We won't know how it is going to turn out until the opinion is released, but I tell you what: We are not in the same place we were even then. When the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965, yes, there was division. There were people who opposed it. There were segregationists—they called themselves Dixiecrats then—who opposed it, as well.

When it was reauthorized in 2006, the vote in the House was 390-33, and it passed the Senate unanimously. President Reagan had signed a previous reauthorization. President Bush signed this one, and that was just 20 years ago. What has happened to the country since then?

I will say this: We all know that the vote is the most powerful tool in a democracy. We all know that there are challenges to votes, voting ability, and voting rights across the country. We have disagreements, I suppose, with our Republican colleagues about some of that, but we need to make sure we remain vigilant and keep working hard to protect those rights.

I had a chance over the weekend to do a couple of things. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, I had a chance to visit churches and groups that were celebrating Dr. King, remembering Dr. King. I went to First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Faith Temple No. 2, and the AKAs had a day of service that I was happy to attend and have a chance to speak to them, worship with them, and work with them.

□ 1950

They are all concerned about where the country is going and the challenges to American democracy and the civil rights movement that gave us the rights that we have today.

I think it is critical for us to remember a couple of things. One is the work continues, no doubt. I have strong disagreements, to say the least, with the current administration, and I commit myself to fighting against the excesses and the wrongs that are going on there.

On Friday, I went with a group of Democrats to Minnesota to deal with

the protests there, to see them firsthand. They reminded me in some ways of the civil rights protests from back in that era, the protests in Selma that led to the Voting Rights Act passage, the protests in Birmingham. The violence is shocking. People are dying. The shooting of Renee Good is just one example of those that has reached the media attention, but there are more of these going on all across the country. I saw clips of people and heard their testimony, people who were dragged out of cars, people who were citizens but were still arrested anyway and taken to the ICE detention center and not released for hours, people who were denied the right to call for an attorney, people who were denied the basic constitutional rights that my colleague from Virginia was talking about.

We have got to make sure we turn that around. We have got to make sure that we protect the rights that the civil rights movement was about defending and even beyond that the Fourth Amendment, the Fifth Amendment, all of those things were put in place 250 years ago, which is the anniversary we are about to celebrate later this year, and rightly so.

We are not a perfect country. We are not a perfect nation, but we have been called to a perfect mission. We need to fulfill that mission.

I think it is important to wrap up with this. Dr. King's dream, kids learn about it in school now, and they see the replays, but in some ways the dream has become a memory for many. I think it is important for us to recall that the dream is not a memory, it is a mandate. It is a mission. It is a movement that we need to continue to make sure we get that work done that Dr. King died for and so many others died for, as well.

I thank my colleague again for putting on this event tonight, giving us a chance to remember Dr. King and think about the civil rights movement and where we are going as a nation. I want to continue to fight alongside her and all my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus and my colleagues here in the House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle as we work to get this done.

Ms. McCLELLAN. I thank Congressman IVEY for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, you see behind me a quote from Dr. King that he gave in an interview in 1967 where he talks about how in many ways the dream that he articulated in the march on Washington had become a nightmare. Most people are surprised by that.

Why did it become a nightmare?

It became a nightmare because after the victories of the Civil Rights Act, after the victory of the Voting Rights Act, when he really began to address the systemic issues facing this country of poverty, of hatred, of war, he began to see how deeply ingrained in American culture racism really was.

He began to see that the systemic racism couldn't just be overcome with

laws. I think for many African Americans today that is the heartbreak that we face. When Dr. King spoke at the march on Washington, he said that in many ways the marchers had come to collect on a promissory note in our Declaration of Independence written 250 years ago, which promised that all men were endowed by their creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Thomas Jefferson didn't mean all men. He didn't include the men, women, and children that he owned, including his children and the mother of those children.

When James Madison, the architect of the Constitution wrote the Virginia Plan that led to the Constitution in the beginning, "We the people . . . in order to form a more perfect Union" and laid out a vision of government by, of, and for the people, it didn't include all the people.

My ancestors, our ancestors here in the Congressional Black Caucus, weren't even deemed people. They were deemed three-fifths of a person for purposes of apportionment. They were treated as property and in some cases animals.

We have a country that was literally built on the backs of a whole race of people with an ideal that was revolutionary: it said the power of government derives from the people.

My ancestors believed in that ideal just as much as yours, Mr. Speaker, but it took us a long time to participate in that government, in that promise. That is what the civil rights movement was about.

It was also about recognizing the basic decency and dignity of every human being, regardless of where they are born, regardless of how they worship, regardless of the color of their skin.

We still have a long way to go, because what diversity, equity, and inclusion recognizes is that when the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and all of the laws that were passed because of the work of Dr. King, they weren't a magic wand that erased over 300 years of the impact of slavery and Jim Crow. That requires intention, intentional unwinding to recognize that you have people like my mother's family, who her parents, her brothers, and her sisters didn't go to school beyond the eighth grade because the State of Mississippi didn't find it important to educate Black children, and while the Catholic church did, they only educated Black children until the eighth grade. Their opportunities were limited.

You had neighborhoods like Jackson Ward that I represent that was once the Harlem of the South, decisions were made to cut that neighborhood in half by a highway and segregate part of that neighborhood away from everything that they needed. Those were intentional decisions that were made rooted in this community doesn't matter.

So, part of the nightmare has been the very things used to try to erase the legacy of Jim Crow and slavery have now been weaponized against that progress. When you see the President of the United States deride the very things used to try to eradicate the legacy of Jim Crow and slavery to divide again, to wedge, to sow division, it is as old as time.

The history of this country has been every time we make progress towards the ideal, there is backlash, and it involves three things: violence, propaganda, and voter suppression.

My great-grandfather lived through the first backlash. He was a man born on a plantation. His parents were enslaved. He exercised his right to vote after he was given a literacy test. He got all the questions right, and he heard the registrar say—and this is the only time you will hear me use this word is in a direct quote—“I need more questions because this nigger got them all right.” He was on a list, do not register this man to vote.

□ 2000

My parents saw the second backlash to the civil rights movement. We are in the third backlash now.

What the backlash involves is propaganda that breaks up coalitions, whether it was a coalition of previously enslaved Black men and poor nonlandowning Whites who came together during Reconstruction to rebuild this Nation, the backlash to that involved racial terror lynching, or the lie of white supremacy and a rash of voter suppression laws that completely ignored the 14th and 15th Amendments.

The backlash in the civil rights movement of Dr. King was a Southern strategy that intentionally carved a wedge between Black and White communities—it was intentional in order to suppress the vote—and the murder of our leaders who fought to change those laws and to change the system.

We are in that backlash right now. We have a choice, and Dr. King spelled it out. We decide where we go from here.

We decide: Is it more chaos, division, hatred, propaganda, violence, voter suppression, and tyranny where we pit one group against another to stay in power?

That is one choice.

Dr. King gave his life for community where we come together, where we work together, and where we uplift each other. We care for one another, we love one another, and we live up to the ideal upon which this country was founded.

He died for that because it meant some people found that idea dangerous.

We, the Congressional Black Caucus, stand here today recommitted to making his dream a reality. We won't give in to the nightmare. We will not give in to the chaos. Not only will we fight the chaos, we will fight for community. We can't do it alone.

Just like the civil rights movement during Reconstruction and just like

the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, it required people coming together from all walks of life putting aside hatred and division and loving their neighbor and their enemy. We can do that. We need a little love today. We need a little light in the darkness. We need community in the midst of the chaos.

We have to do it because while we are fighting the same fights that our parents, our grandparents, and our great-grandparents fought, we cannot leave those fights to our children, our grandchildren, or our great-grandchildren if we expect this country to survive.

That is because what Dr. King also recognized was that now human beings hold the power to destroy each other and to destroy this planet. If we don't get ahold of our hatred, then a lot of lives will be destroyed.

That is not what Dr. King wanted. That is not what people elect us to do. They elect us to help people and solve problems. They elect us to focus on community. Let's not give into the chaos.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 6938. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2704. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Lieutenant General Thomas M. Carden, Jr., Army National Guard of the United States, to wear the insignia of the grade of general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4209); ; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2705. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to transactions involving exports to Ethiopia, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-2706. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications

Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Advance the Low Power Television, TV Translator and Class A Television Service [MB Docket No.: 24-148] received January 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2707. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Report Number: 007067, “U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq”, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2708. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the International Criminal Court that was declared in Executive Order 14203 of February 6, 2025, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2709. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan that was declared in Executive Order 14064 of February 11, 2022, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2710. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT case 25-11179, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2711. A letter from the Office Manager, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report titled: “ANC 8C Funds Used for Political Activity”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 455(d); (87 Stat. 803); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2712. A letter from the Associate Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, transmitting a notification of a vacancy and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2713. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting notification of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2714. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, General Law and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting fourteen (14) notifications of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, action on nomination, and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2715. A letter from the Commissioner, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2025 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2716. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the